



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 10

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900  
Seattle, WA 98101-3140

OFFICE OF  
ECOSYSTEMS, TRIBAL  
AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

November 1, 2013

Teresa Raaf  
Forest Supervisor  
431 Patterson Bridge Road  
John Day, Oregon 97845

Re: EPA Region 10 Review of the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Galena Project (EPA Project Number: 09-010-AFS).

Dear Ms. Raff:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed final Environmental Impact Statement for the Galena Project on the Blue Mountain Ranger District of the Malheur National Forest, Grant County, Oregon. Our review of the FEIS was conducted in accordance with our responsibilities under National Environmental Policy Act and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

The FEIS analyzes the Forest Service's proposal to modify stand structure across the planning area in order to improve the vegetative condition and restore plant communities toward the range of historic conditions. The Preferred Alternative (Alternative 2) seeks to move forested vegetation toward the historic range of variability and promote the development of old forest stand structures through commercial thinning and biomass removal, precommercial thinning, aspen restoration, and fuels treatments including prescribed burning. The Preferred Alternative also calls for road activities, including construction, reconstruction, maintenance, and closure and decommissioning.

In our April, 2011 comments on the DEIS, we indicated support for the incorporation of road-related management measures consistent with the 2002 Galena Watershed Analysis, as well as the proposed thinning prescriptions in the identified "hot dry" and "warm dry" biophysical environments. We asked for inclusion of additional design criteria related to the management of post-fire grazing. We are pleased with the expansion of the design criteria in Chapter 2 and the incorporation of the 2003 Post-Fire Interim Grazing Guidelines into the design criteria.

Overall, the EPA continues to support the objectives of the Galena Project, especially promoting the development of late and old structural single-stratum wildlife habitats; restoring and enhancing hardwood stands as appropriate; and reducing the risk of disturbance events (insect, disease, wildfire) leading to a loss of desired forest conditions.

We appreciate the opportunity to review and comment on the FEIS. If you have any questions about our review, please contact me at (206) 553-1601, or by electronic mail at [reichgott.christine@epa.gov](mailto:reichgott.christine@epa.gov). Or you may contact Teresa Kubo of my staff at (503) 326-2859 or by electronic mail at [kubo.teresa@epa.gov](mailto:kubo.teresa@epa.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Christine B. Reichgott", is positioned below the "Sincerely," text.

Christine B. Reichgott, Manager  
Environmental Review and Sediment Management Unit